[12th October 1928

Alleged nomination of ex-presidents of district boards to the same boards.

* 563 Q.—Mr. C. Obi Reddi : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that vacancies in the nominated seats of the district boards are filled up by nominating the outgoing presidents of the said boards ; and

(b) if so, on what principle ?

A.—(a) & (b) Outgoing presidents of district boards are occasionally nominated as members because it is considered desirable to secure for the Boards the benefit of their administrative experience.

Excise

Rentals from liquor shops in Ceded districts.

* 564 Q.—Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state in view of answers given to question No. 261 on 8th September 1928—

(a) whether the report said to have been called for in (a) and (b) has been received, if so, what it is ; and

(b) what is the percentage of cases in which the upset price was fixed lower than the last year's rental during the last three years in the Ceded districts and what is the percentage in which it was fixed higher ?

A.—(a) The report has been laid on the table.

(b) The Government do not have the information.

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know from the hon. the Minister for Public Health whether in view of the fact that from the report laid on the table it appears that the drink evil has increased and the number of shops has increased at any rate in two districts, he will give us an opportunity to judge of that by calling for the information asked for by me ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar —" I am not able to follow, Mr. President, how the information asked for will answer the doubt raised by my hon. Friend."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know whether the hon. the Minister will call for the information, Sir, in order that we may be able to know exactly what the effect of the policy of fixing rentals is on the number of shops ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" As will be seen from the answer, in two of the districts the number of shops has gone down by 7 or 8 and in two of the districts, on the advice of the Excise Advisory Committees, two shops have been newly opened. Whether the question as regards the rise or fall of rentals of the shops has any bearing on the closing or opening of shops or not, I am not able to say. If however the hon. Member is anxious about the information, I shall try and get it for him. But it is not now available."

Government policy towards prohibition.

* 565 Q.—Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state in view of replies given to question No. 76 on 4th September 1928 regarding Government policy towards prohibition—

(a) what the further details of the scheme are which were under the consideration of the Government ;